largest oil-seeds areas in the world India is biggest importer of vegetable oils?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (*SHRI G. S. DHILLON*): (a) and (b) The progress of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds production alongwith 3 other Missions, was presented to the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Science and Technology presided over by the Prime Minister. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament who were present in the meeting sought information on several points and clarifications were furnished. The main objective of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds production is to make the country self-reliant by the year 1990 in edible and non-edible oils and to reduce imports through an integrated approach involving different developmental, scientific, banking, marketing, and processing agencies.

(c) According to the information available, India is the largest importer of edible oils in the world today.

Codification of privileges of the Members of the legislatures

373. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to codify the privileges of the Members of the legislatures; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The government feel that the matter should be left to be decided by the Parliament and State Legislatures.

Target for Housing during the current year

374. *SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY*: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to declare Housing as Industry in the current international year of Shelter for homeless; and

(b) what is the target fixed for housing in the urban and rural areas in this financial year throughout the country and allocation of funds made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is a proposal to declare Housing as an Industry but a final view is yet to be taken.

(b) Housing is a State subject and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been given full powers to implement social housing schemes as per their needs and plan priorities. The financial assistance from the Central Government is given to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any particular scheme or head of development.

Poor quality of construction work done by DDA

375. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report on the working of DDA for the year 1985-86 has revealed the poor quality of construction work undertaken by DDA in various areas;

(b) whether Government took any steps to fix the responsibility for such construction, if so, what action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) what is the total value involved in these types of spurious constructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Chief Engineer (Quality Control) had pointed out certain defects after carrying out various inspections during the year 1985-86.

(b) "As per reports submitted by the CE (QC) instructions were issued to the CEs to take necessary action as under:—

(i) CEs were asked to have close watch on the performance of the divisions where quality of works was found to be comparatively of inferior quality.

(ii) Similarly the CEs|SEs|EEs were instructed to keep close watch on the performance of the contractors and inspect their works as frequently as possible.

(iii) CEs were also instructed to ensure that defects as observed by the CE(QC) are not repeated as far as possible.

The defects pointed out by the Quality Control Cell are attended to and action initiated|taken against the staff, if warranted after careful examination of site inspection reports".

(c) The total value of these defective constructions has not been calculated.

Prices of edible oils

376. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of edible oils are soaring up even after the new agricultural policy adopted by Government;

(b) if so, what action is being taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that large quantity of edible oil is being smuggled to the adjoining countries; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to curb the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The prices of indigenous edible oils have risen during recent months.

(b) Supply management of imported edible oils through Public Distribution system has been geared to check the rising trend in prices of open market edible oils prices. Recently, allocation of imported oils to Vanaspati industry has also been increased.

(c) Reports received by the Government do not indicate smuggling of edible oils in large quantities to adjoining countries.

(d) However, anti-smuggling drive in general, has been intensified in the border regions.

Scheme for participation of farmers in sharing of irrigation water

377. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government for participation of farmers in the distribution of irrigation waters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, a scheme has been formulated to provide Central assistance to the States on matching basis for the managerial charges of the Farmers' associations at Rs. 100 per hectare for the first two years and Rs. 75 per hectare for the third year.

Famine and drought havoc in Rajasthan

378. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides making an assessment at Government level with regard to the famine and drought havoc in the State of Rajasthan, the Prime Minister visited the State sometime in December, 1986 to make an on-the-spot study of the situation in the Western-most border districts and the Southern districts of the state;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and